



# **Nebraska State Accountability**

**Grade 3  
Reading  
Mini-Test**

**Name:**

**Directions:**

On the following page is a passage and multiple-choice questions for Grade 3 Reading Mini-Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read the passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Remember only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

### All about Zippers

Whitcomb L. Judson lived in Chicago over one hundred years ago. He loved machines and created many things. He invented a new kind of streetcar that ran on an underground track. His most famous invention was the zipper.

It all started with Whitcomb's friend, who had a sore back. At the time, most shoes had buttons or "hooks and eyes" that closed them. Either way, it took two hands. This made it difficult for people like Whitcomb's friend. He found it hard to bend over and fasten his shoes.

- 3 Whitcomb wanted to help his friend. In 1893, he came up with an idea to **fasten** shoes by sliding a small tab up and down. It would let people close their shoes with just one hand. It took him a few weeks to build a model. He called his new invention a "clasp locker." It looked like two chains with hooks and eyes and a sliding piece that joined the two chains together.

That same year, the World's Fair was held in Chicago. Whitcomb had a small table showing the clasp locker. Most people had no interest in it. There were so many other things to see at the fair. Whitcomb sold just twenty clasp lockers at the fair to post-office workers. They used them on their mail bags. Part of the problem was that his new invention broke easily. Many people thought buttons were better. Others couldn't see how to make the clasp locker work.

Whitcomb still hoped his invention would catch on. He even started a company to make the new invention. One of his workers had ideas for making the clasp locker better. His name was Gideon Sundback. After Whitcomb died, Gideon made many changes to the invention. It looked a lot more like the zippers we use today.

In 1923, the B. F. Goodrich Company decided to sell rain boots using Gideon's new clasp lockers. At last, they became popular. One of the Goodrich workers noticed that the clasp lockers made a "zip" sound when they were opened and closed. This gave the clasp locker a new name. Soon, "zippers" were being used everywhere.

1. Paragraph 3 has the word **fasten**. Which word means the same as **fasten**?

- A. hook
- B. separate
- C. unlock
- D. remove

## READING SESSION 1

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2. Which event in the story happened first?
  - A. Whitcomb had a small table at the World's Fair.
  - B. Gideon Sundback worked for Whitcomb.
  - C. The clasp locker was invented.
  - D. B. F. Goodrich used zippers on rain boots.
  
3. Which statement is a fact?
  - A. People thought buttons were better.
  - B. Whitcomb L. Judson lived in Chicago.
  - C. Gideon Sundback is amazing.
  - D. The best invention was the zipper.
  
4. What would be another title for this passage?
  - A. The History of Zippers
  - B. Famous Inventions
  - C. The Chicago World's Fair
  - D. A New Kind of Street Car
  
5. What was the problem with the clasp lockers Whitcomb tried to sell at the World's Fair?
  - A. They were expensive.
  - B. Nobody came to the fair.
  - C. He didn't have enough to sell.
  - D. They broke easily.

## READING SESSION 1

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6. What do the words **streetcar** and **underground** have in common?
- A. They have the same number of syllables.
  - B. They are compound words.
  - C. They have the same meaning.
  - D. They are action words.
7. Which word BEST describes Whitcomb L. Judson?
- A. wealthy
  - B. likeable
  - C. creative
  - D. unhappy

### **Grade 3 Mini-Test Answers**

1. A. hook
2. C. The clasp locker was invented.
3. B. Whitcomb L. Judson lived in Chicago.
4. A. The History of Zippers
5. D. They broke easily.
6. B. They are compound words.
7. C. creative